6/12/07 Workshop Suction Dredge Mining

Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From:

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To:

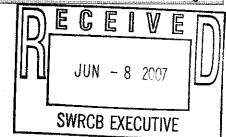
<commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>

Date:

Fri, Jun 8, 2007 7:17 AM

Subject:

Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining...



Your proposed legislation should not be approved or voted into law for several good reasons. Although your concern for environmental impact is admirable, I believe your concerns are focused in the wrong direction.

In stream dredging creates no more erosion or stream sedimentation than a natural rain storm. Particles of soil and rock displaced by dredging drop back down to the bottom of the stream within a short distance of where they were sucked up. And since the particles sucked up by dredging are loose already, there is no erosion or long-term environmental damage. These same particles would have shifted downstream with the next rainfall.

In addition, the business of recreational gold dredging provides a substantial boost to the local economies wherever it occurs. Small business owners rent, sell and service the equipment used in dredging. Hotels, camp grounds and bed-and-breakfasts are used for lodging. And restaurants provide food for tourists, such as myself, who come from far away to enjoy the beauty of California, and to learn about the history, geology and natural wonders of the California wilderness.

So you see, while your concerns for the environment are to be admired, this legislation may be a misplaced use of effort and state resources.

If you have questions about my viewpoints, please feel free to email me, or contact me at work.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my view point.

Greg Wein

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WWJWD? (What Would John Wayne Do?)

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